

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13-23 are now pending in the application. Claim 12 has been cancelled herein. Claims 21-23 have been added for substantive examination. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended herein to correct clerical errors.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicants note that only claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. However, claims 1 and 17 have been amended herein. As currently amended, claims 1 and 17 call for a sheet material "having an abrasive material disposed on a face." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection. Additionally, Applicants note that new claim 21 includes a similar feature.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-11 and 13-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Longstaff et al. (U.S. Pat. No. Des. 389388) in view of Pearce (U.S. Pat. No. 5367839) and in further view of Martin et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5879227).

As currently amended, claim 1 calls for a body portion with “a first configuration adapted to be used with a first platen configuration and having first segments defining regions of weakened material, wherein said sheet material is adapted to be separated along said first segments to change a configuration of said body portion of said sheet material to correspond with a second platen configuration having different external dimensions from said first configuration.” Similarly, claim 17 includes the limitation of “a first configuration adapted to be used with a first platen configuration and having first marking segments, wherein said sheet material is adapted to be separated along said first marking segments to change a configuration of said body portion of said sheet material to correspond with a second platen configuration having different external dimensions than said first configuration.” The Longstaff et al. reference, the Pearce reference, and the Martin et al. reference each fail to disclose these features.

In particular, Longstaff et al. fails to disclose that the sheet material can be adapted to be separated along the first and second segments to change a configuration of the body portion of the sheet material to correspond with a second differently configured platen. Page 3-4 of the Office Action mailed May 4, 2004.

Furthermore, Pearce does not disclose a sheet material adaptable to platen configurations with different external dimensions. The Pearce reference discloses a sheet 1 with punch out areas 2 and 2'. (See Column 2, lines 45-54.) Punch out areas 2 and 2' correspond to various dust extraction facilities of different sanding machines. (Column 2, lines 63-68 and column 3, lines 1-5). The patterns of punch out areas 2 and 2' are arranged to correspond to the different hole configuration of the sanding machines. (Column 2, lines 59-62). The Pearce reference discloses sheets that are

adaptable to different configurations of dust extraction facilities (holes) within the size range of a particular sheet and, therefore, does not disclose a sheet adaptable to configurations with different external dimensions.

Martin et al. does not disclose a sheet material adaptable to platen configurations with different external dimensions. Martin et al. discloses an abrasive sheet 22 coupled to surface layer 10 of sanding platen 2. (Column 2, lines 14-32). However, Martin et al. does not disclose that abrasive sheet 22 is adaptable to different platen configurations. Therefore, the Martin et al. reference does not disclose the features called for in claims 1 and 17.

For at least these reasons, the combination of Longstaff et al., Pearce, and Martin et al. fail to render obvious the invention of claims 1 and 17. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Claims 2-11, 13-16, and 18-20 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 17 and thus, for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claims 1 and 17, are believed to be patentable. Claims 2 and 18 are currently amended to correct clerical errors. Claims 3, 6, 7, 13, 14, and 19 are currently amended to correct grammatical errors. Claim 10 is currently amended in view of currently amended Claim 1. Claim 12 has been cancelled herein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

NEW CLAIMS

New claim 21 incorporates features similar to original claims 1 and 3. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Longstaff et al. (U.S.

Pat. No. Des. 389388) in view of Pearce (U.S. Pat. No. 5367839) and in further view of Martin et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5879227). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 21 calls for a sheet material that has a first tip portion separable from a first body portion with a first body configuration along second segments and a second tip portion separable from a second body portion with a second body configuration along third segments. The first tip portion has a first tip configuration, and the second tip portion has a second tip configuration different from the first tip configuration. Longstaff et al., Pearce, and Martin et al. fail to disclose these features.

Longstaff et al. fails to disclose a sheet material that has a first tip portion separable from a first body portion having a first body configuration along second segments and a second tip portion separable from a second body portion having a second body configuration along third segments, where the first tip portion has a first tip configuration, and the second tip portion has a second tip configuration different from the first tip configuration. Page 4 of the Office Action mailed May 4, 2004.

Pearce also fails to disclose a sheet material with second and third segments defining first and second tip portions. The Pearce reference discloses a sheet 1 with punch out areas 2 and 2'. Punch out areas 2 and 2' correspond to various dust extraction facilities of different sanding machines. Punch out areas 2 and 2' are within the area covered by sheet 1 and do not correspond with any tip portions of sheet 1. Therefore, the Pearce reference does not disclose the features called for in claim 21.

Martin et al. does not disclose a sheet material with second and third segments defining first and second tip portions. The Martin et al. reference discloses detachable portion 14 of foam surface layer 10 having edges 32 and 34 corresponding to edges 40

and 42 of foam surface layer 10. (Column 2, lines 38-46). Abrasive sheet 22 with perforated line 24 is also disclosed. (Column 2, lines 62-67 and Column 3, lines 1-6). Perforated line 24 defines an area of abrasive sheet 22 that corresponds with detachable portion 14. Thus, Martin et al. discloses only one set of segments defining one tip portion. Therefore, Martin et al. does not disclose the features called for in claim 21.

For at least these reasons, it is believed that claim 21 is patentable over the combination of Longstaff et al., Pearce, and Martin et al. Additionally, new claims 22 and 23 depend directly from claim 21 and thus, for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 21, are also believed to be patentable. Accordingly, allowance of claims 21-23 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 4, 2004

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